(g) what action Government have taken in the matter and also to safeguard the classified defence documents in the Ministry of Defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An investigation has revealed that this story in the Times of India of 28 June 1994 is factually incorrect. The story first appeared in the Pakistani Newspaper, 'The News', Government of India has issued a denial that there is no truth in the report.

(e) and (f) In a separate and unrelated episode, one Shri Mohd Afzal Bajwa, a staff member of the Pakistan High Commission was caught on 11 July 1994 while he was in the process of procuring classified material from an Indian contact. It will not be desirable to divulge details at this stage.

(g) Govt. requested the Govt. of Pakistan to withdraw Shri Afzal Bajwa for activities not compatible with his diplomatic status. Shri Bajwa was accordingly, withdrawn by the Govt. of Pakistan and has left the country on 19 July 1994. Instructions are given from time to time for safeguarding security of classified information.

Supply of spares from Russia

409. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken for ensuring the supply of spare parts and other Defence equipments for which arrangements were there with U.S.S.R. on the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Russia; and

(b) what are the details of new agreements made with Russia to strengthen our Defence capabilities during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Government are maintaining continuous contact with the Russian authorities to ensure a smooth flow of defence related supplies. At the same time, the country's defence requirements are being sought to be met through indigenous Industry, and from diverse sources abroad.

(b) An agreement on formation of Indo-Russian Aviation Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture company, was signed during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Russia.

Agreement with Russia for servicing of Russian Planes

410. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint venture agreement has been signed with Russia which will create a private company in India to service and repair Russian made planes of all types in operation around the Third world; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) An agreement on formation of a joint venture company by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) alongwith certain Russian organisations was signed in Moscow on 30 June 1994. The scope of activities of the joint venture company covers warehousing of aviation stores and servicing, repair, modification, etc. of aeronautical equipment.